DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 289 655 RC 016 521

TITLE PCAP Project Profiles and General Profiles. Priority Country Area Program--Queensland.
INSTITUTION Priority Country Area Program Office, Brisbane (Australia).
SPONS AGENCY Australian Schools Commission, Canberra.
PUB DATE 87
NOTE 27p.; For an earlier profile report, see ED 242 454.
PUB TYPE Reports - Descriptive (141)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Access to Education; Background; *Cultural Enrichment; Dance; *Educational Opportunities; Elementary Secondary Education; Foreign Countries; Geographic Regions; Guidelines; Itinerant Teachers; Mobile Educational Services; Needs Assessment; *Outreach Programs; Program Administration; Program Descriptions; Rural Areas; *Rural Education
IDENTIFIERS *Australia (Queensland)

ABSTRACT

Four Priority Country Area overviews, one State overview and one Project Profile are included in this report from the Priority Country Area Program (PCAP), designed to improve the educational opportunities of rural Queensland children. The program resulted from a 1977-79 Schools Commission report suggesting that rural students may be disadvantaged compared to urban dwellers with respect to available experiences/opportunities. The State overview of Queensland includes: a breakdown of the priority areas (with map); the area extent; name, address and phone number of the program's state coordinator; a description giving background, geography, program guidelines, and administration information; and sections on PCAP projects and evaluation. The Area overviews cover the Central, Northern, North West and South West priority areas of Queensland. Each overview contains: the name and extent of the area (with map); local authority areas; the date priority was declared; name, address, and phone number of regional coordinators; and a description of the area including background, geography, demography, PCAP Projects, administration, and information/publications. The Project Profile describes the Balonne Ballet project in the South West Priority area, which provides a travelling ballet teacher to give lessons in the area. Information is given on the background, operation, and evaluation of the project. (JMM)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED289655

PRIORITY COUNTRY AREA PROGRAM — QUEENSLAND

The Priority Country Area Program is a Rural Education Program Funded by the Commonwealth Schools Commission under its Country Areas Program and is jointly administered by the Queensland Department of Education and the Queensland Catholic Education Office.

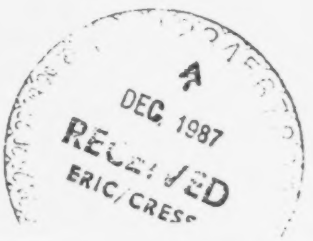
PCAP PROJECT PROFILES AND GENERAL PROFILES

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☐ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☑ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.



"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
C. Fowler

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

PCAP is a joint Program which services Government and Non-Government schools and Correspondence students in Prescribed Country Areas. The Program operates in four declared areas of the State. These are known as the South West, Central, North West and Northern Priority Country Areas. Detail on each Area can be found in the enclosed General Profiles.

Prescribed Areas are declared by the State Minister for Education on the basis of guidelines provided by the Commonwealth Schools Commission.

At the State level the Program is administered by the PCAP State Management Committee which is responsible for overall policy and administrative matters, financial management, accountability and evaluation.

The enclosed set of Project Profiles describe the major initiatives undertaken by the Priority Country Area Program in 1987. A list of these Profiles is provided overleaf.

Also enclosed is a set of General Profiles. These profiles give an overview of the Program as a whole and an overview of the four Priority Country Areas in the South West, Central, North West and Northern parts of the State.

It is hoped that these profiles will supply useful information to people interested in the initiatives sponsored by PCAP. All comments and enquiries are welcome and you are invited to forward correspondence either to the State Co-ordinator at the address which appears below or to the contact officer shown on the particular profile.

PRIORITY COUNTRY AREA PROGRAM
P.O. BOX 33, NORTH QUAY
QLD 4002

RC016521

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

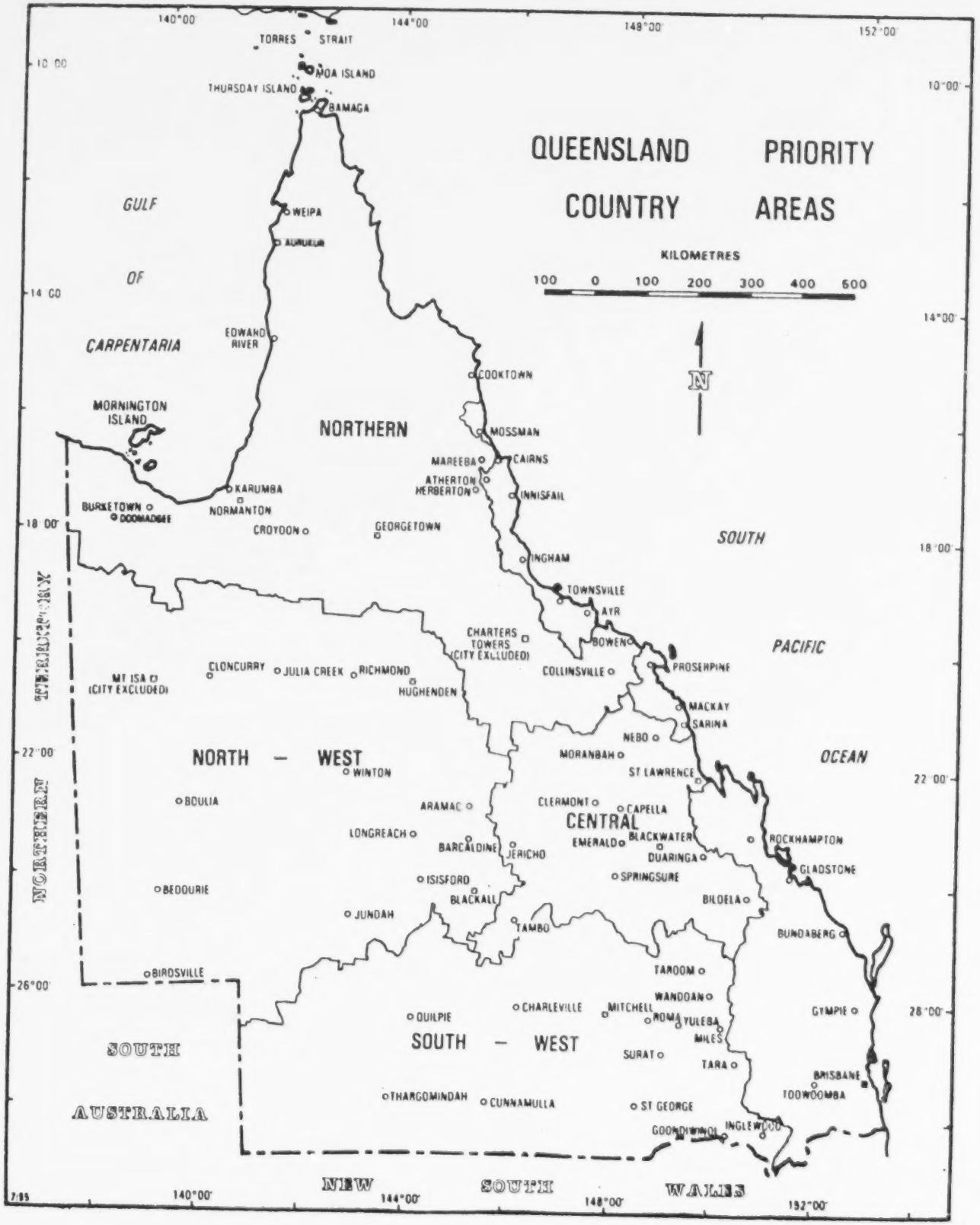
CONTENTS

No.	TITLE
1	ISOLATED CHILDREN'S SPECIAL EDUCATION UNIT — PCAP SUPPORT
2	PRODUCTION SERVICES — PCAP SUPPORT
3	ISOLATED CHILDREN'S MUSIC PROJECT
4	REGIONAL TECHNICAL OFFICERS
5	PROVISION OF MINI BUSES
6	MOBILE CLASSROOM
7	RESOURCE CENTRE — CENTRAL
8	TEACHER AIDE SUPPORT FOR THE ISOLATED CHILDREN'S SPECIAL EDUCATION UNIT
9	HOME TUTORS' SEMINAR
10	OUTBACK MOBILE TEACHING SERVICE
11	CULTURAL ACTIVITIES EXTENSION PROGRAM
12	FLYING REMEDIAL RESOURCE SERVICE
13	SUPPORT VEHICLES
14	RESOURCE CENTRE — NORTH WEST
15	CONTACT CENTRES
16	ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION MARINE STUDIES
17	CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL CAMPS
18	GUIDANCE SUPPORT SERVICES
19	SCHOOL FESTIVALS
20	LIBRARY SERVICES — TORRES STRAIT ISLAND SCHOOLS
21	CHILDREN'S WRITING PROJECT
22	PRIMARY ITINERANT TEACHING SERVICE — NORTHERN
23	OUTDOOR EDUCATION — TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS
24	PRIMARY ITINERANT TEACHING SERVICE — SOUTH WEST
25	MOBILE FIELD STUDY UNIT
26	INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM UNIT
27	SUBSIDISED COACH — SOUTH WEST
28	BALONNE BALLET

In its 1977-79 report the Schools Commission suggested 'that students in country areas may be disadvantaged compared to urban dwellers because of additional factors in the variety of experiences and opportunities available to such students'. As a consequence of this concern for the problems of country children the Commission added a new element to the Disadvantaged Schools Program for 1977, sub-titled 'Disadvantaged Country Areas'. The funding thus made available was intended to finance the piloting of schemes designed to improve the opportunities of children in such areas. In 1982 the Schools Commission renamed the Disadvantaged Country Areas Program the Country Areas Program and made it a permanent Commission program.

In Queensland, the term Priority Country Area is used to describe those country areas identified on the basis of guidelines supplied by the Schools Commission and approved by the State Minister for Education. To date, four such areas have been declared — in the South-West, North-West, Central and Northern areas of the State as shown on the map provided overleaf.

In 1977, a committee representing State and non-State education interests was formed by the State Minister for Education to administer the Priority Country Area Program in Queensland. In 1980 with the declaration of the North-West Priority Country Area, the PCAP committee structure was reorganised to provide for a smaller State Management Committee and larger Regional Committees with substantial community representation in each of the Priority Country Areas. More details on the overall program are provided in the attached General Profiles.



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

PROJECT PROFILE

PRIORITY COUNTRY AREA PROGRAM QUEENSLAND

Number 28 **April 1987**

Project Title: BALONNE BALLET

Location: South West Priority Country Area

Contact: Regional Co-ordinator, South West
PCAP, PO Box 47, Charleville Q 4470

DEC 1987
RECEIVED
ERIC/CRESS

DESCRIPTION

Purpose:

*To assist schools and parents in providing country children with a range of educational/recreational/social experiences.

Background:

*In 1978 the South West Regional Committee approved funding for a ballet teacher to travel to the area for periods of up to three weeks per month. The teacher travels from Charleville to St. George, teaching students in St. George and is then taken by one of the parents half way to the next destination of Bollon. A parent from Bollon then collects the teacher and takes her into Bollon for lessons.

*Other locations where classes are conducted are Dirrambandi, Thallon and Mungindi. Some students from small schools such as Begonia and Wycombe travel into St. George for lessons and there are also some Primary Correspondence School students attending classes.

Operation:

*A Committee was formed in St. George to handle the day to day administration of the ballet and accommodation for the ballet teacher is arranged through billetting with families en route.

*Originally the teacher made approximately 21 trips per year, but since the beginning of 1987 the teacher now spends four weeks at a time involving approximately 124 hours teaching time for the four week period and travelling approximately twenty hours during that same period.

*Fees are paid directly to the teacher by the students who receive approximately four lessons per month.

Evaluation:

*An evaluation report will soon be published, but all reports to date indicate strong support for the ballet program.

GENERAL PROFILE

PRIORITY COUNTRY AREA PROGRAM QUEENSLAND

Number 1

August 1987

STATE OVERVIEW

Priority Areas: Central, Northern, North West and South West
(See Map on rear page)

Area Extent: 1 561 183 km²

Contact Person:
State Co-ordinator
Priority Country Area Program
Department of Education
P.O. Box 33
NORTH QUAY, Q. 4002
Phone: (07) 237 0796

DESCRIPTION

Background:

- The Commonwealth Schools Commission Report: Rolling Triennium 1977-79, suggested 'that students in country areas may be disadvantaged compared to urban dwellers'. As a consequence, funds were provided through the Disadvantaged Country Areas Program to encourage the piloting of schemes to address those educational problems which were engendered by the social and geographical nature of particular rural areas.

- As both government and non-government schools are equally influenced by the same locational characteristics, the Disadvantaged Country Areas Program was defined as a joint government non/government program by the Schools Commission. The Program was defined as a national program which would operate in all States and Territories where a clear need for the program could be identified.

- In 1982 the Schools Commission re-named the Disadvantaged Country Areas Program the Country Areas Program and made it a permanent Commission Program. The strategies developed were intended to provide solutions to area problems rather than to the problems of particular schools. The change in name also reflected a change in focus to alleviating educational needs which are directly linked to isolation and limited access to some educational services and to a wide range of social and cultural activities.

- In Queensland, the scheme has been known as the Priority Country Area Program (PCAP) and four areas of the State, identified on the basis of guidelines supplied by the Schools Commission, have participated to date:
  — South West, declared March 1977, extended August 1982
  — Central, declared November 1977, extended August 1982
  — North West, declared December 1979, extended August 1982
  — Northern, declared August 1982

- The map at the rear of this Profile shows the extent of Priority Country Areas in Queensland.

- Factors influencing the selection of areas have included community characteristics such as socio-economic levels, social isolation and local employment possibilities, and school characteristics such as retention rates, teacher turnover and range of curriculum choice.

Guidelines:

- The Commonwealth Schools Commission Guidelines for 1987 indicate the following three major objectives for the Country Areas Program:
  - To help alleviate the substantial and persistent educational disadvantage of many country children and their families which stems from restricted access to social, cultural and educational activities and services.
  - To develop better ways of delivering educational services to students in country schools.
  - To provide a framework within which school communities and country people can work co-operatively to improve educational opportunities for country children.

- The Commission also believes that in order to meet the aims of the Program, support should be provided for activities which include:
  - developing curriculum programs to suit the experience, interests and aptitudes of country students and which make use of local resources;
  - reinforcing the positive aspects of rural life;
  - building student's self confidence and improving their attitudes to learning through community programs designed to enrich the cultural, social and recreational life of country areas;
  - providing access and opportunities to participate in contemporary arts activities such as dance, drama, music, theatre, and visual arts (including film, television and media);
  - making imaginative use of local people and local industries in school programs;
  - broadening students' understanding of potential occupational horizons;
  - finding new ways of overcoming isolation and extending curriculum offerings through sharing resources and facilities, such as radio and television.

Administration:

- In 1977, a Joint Committee, representing a wide range of educational interests, was formed to administer the program in Queensland. The declaration of the North West Priority Country Area was followed by a re-organisation of PCAP Committee structures during 1980, resulting in a smaller State Management Committee and larger regional committees.

- It should be emphasised that the Program is jointly administered by the Queensland Catholic Education Office and the State Department of Education. The former systemic authority perceives its role as one in which it also exercises stewardship of the Program on behalf of the non-Catholic independent school sector as well as on behalf of its own schools. The administration of the Program is enhanced by the close professional relationship which exists between the two systemic authorities both at a State level and regionally between Regional Offices of the Department of Education and the various diocesan Catholic Education Offices.

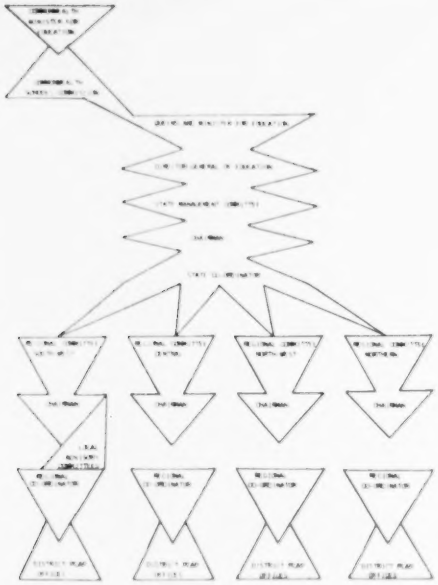
- The State Management Committee comprises two representatives of the Department of Education, one of whom acts as Chairman; two representatives of the Queensland Catholic Education Office and the Chairman and one Community Representative from each Regional PCAP Committee.

- Membership of the regional committees provides representation for both State and non-State education systems as well as for a variety of local community interests and organisations.

- The State Management Committee has overall responsibility for the running of the Program. It develops policy and procedures and maintains oversight of the Program through the State Office headed by the State Co-ordinator.

- Regional Committees are responsible for the co-ordination and supervision of regional operations and the allocation of funds for regional initiatives.

- The following is a diagramatic representation of the organisational structure of the Program:



Geography:

- The PCAP areas, covering some 1 561 183 square kilometres of western, northern and central Queensland, together comprise some 90 per cent of the total area of the State.
- The South West and North West PCAP Areas occupy the region known as the Western Plains, interrupted around Mount Isa by the more rugged country of the North Western Uplands. In the Central PCAP Area, the Eastern Highlands achieve their maximum breadth, making this a region of ridges and valleys. The Northern Priority Country Area includes varied geographical features. It takes in part of the Western Plains and many coastal mountain ranges. Also incorporated are the rain forests of the Cape and the flood plains of the Gulf area.
- Although the PCAP regions cover 90 per cent of the area of the State, they contain only 7 per cent of the total population. PCAP regions are thus characterised by low population densities and vast distances.

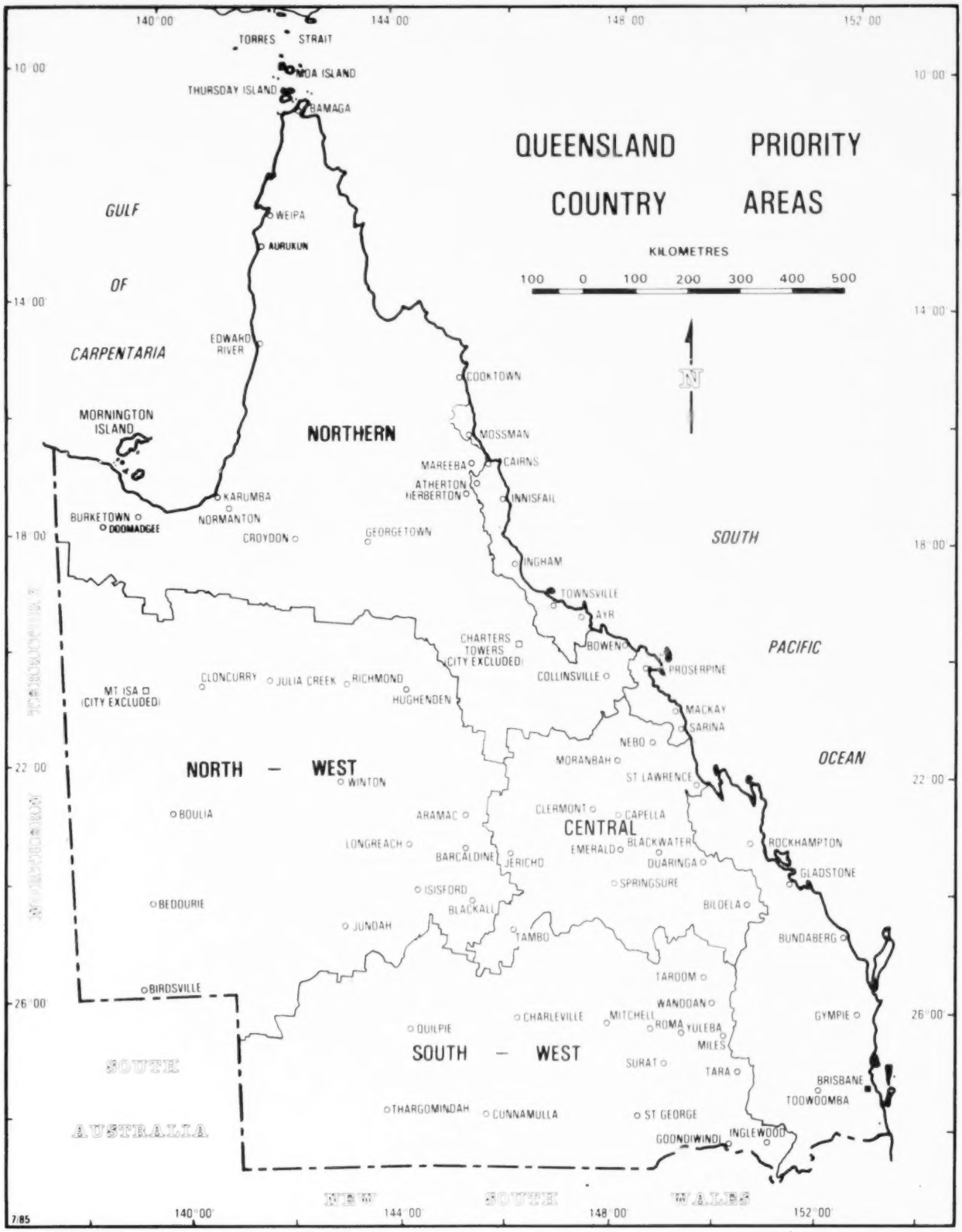
PCAP Projects:

- Full details of PCAP projects are provided in the Project Profiles at the front of this folder.
- PCAP initiatives have developed two major thrusts, one aimed at helping country schools and the other at assisting correspondence pupils.
- Assistance to country schools has been mainly through the provision of facilities intended to enrich the curriculum and the provision of support staff with specialist skills. Examples of the former have included a closed-circuit television program, buses for school outings, itinerant music teachers, and a mobile field study unit. Examples of support staff have included technical maintenance officers, speech therapists and remedial/resource teachers.
- Assistance to correspondence pupils has been mainly through the provision of itinerant teachers in the South West, North West and Northern Priority Country Areas and a Mobile Classroom in the Central Priority Country Area.

PCAP Evaluation:

- Research and evaluation projects for the program are undertaken through the State Office under the supervision of the State Co-ordinator. An evaluation reference group provides a professional forum for discussing the overall emphasis of evaluation activities as well as discussing specific projects.
- Evaluation activities include the preparation of formal reports on PCAP projects, the production of Project and General profiles, the provision of informal reports for PCAP committees, a research service for the Program, assistance with the internal self-evaluation of PCAP activities and the provision of statistical information.
- A list of available publications can be obtained from the State Co-ordinator.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

GENERAL PROFILE

PRIORITY COUNTRY AREA PROGRAM QUEENSLAND

Number 2 **August 1987**

Title: The Central Priority Country Area

Area Extent: 166 209 km²

Local Authority Areas: Banana, Bauhinia, Belyando, Broadsound, Duaringa, Emerald, Jericho, Nebo, Peak Downs, Tambo.

Date Declared: November 1977

Contact Person:
Regional Co-ordinator
Central PCAP
P.O. Box 524
ROCKHAMPTON Q 4730
Phone: (079) 27 8922

DESCRIPTION

Background:

- The Central Priority Country Area was declared in 1977 and included the shires of Nebo, Belyando, Broadsound, Jericho, Peak Downs, Emerald, Duaringa, Bauhinia and Tambo. In 1982 this area was extended to include the shire of Banana. (See Map at rear of Profile).
- During 1986 an extensive evaluation was undertaken in Central PCAP Region to determine directions for further PCAP programs and to set priorities. The outcomes of this exercise were of great value in planning PCAP activities for 1987 and future years.
- Each year the Central region produces a handbook which outlines current guidelines and activities as well as general information useful to the recipients of PCAP services.

Geography:

- The Area occupies a portion of central Queensland near to the coast, extending approximately 400 km. from east to west and 400 km. from north to south.
- Although the climate becomes increasingly dry and extreme as the distance from the coast increases, the climate figures for Emerald would be representative of much of the area:

		January	July	Annual
Daily Average Temperatures	maximum	33.6°c	22.2°c	29.2°c
	minimum	21.3°c	6.8°c	15.2°c
Rainfall		108mm	27mm	631mm

- Climate is characterised by a large seasonal temperature range, unreliable rainfall and intense sunshine, particularly in summer.
- The principal type of land use is pastoral farming, although crop farming is important as well. Water is available from artesian bores in some parts of the area but this supply is unreliable.
- Large deposits of coal are found through much of the area. Coal mining has lead to the rapid development of centres such as Blackwater, Moranbah, Dysart, Middlemount, Clermont and Blair Athol. There are also scattered deposits of gold, copper, oil, natural gas, opals and diatomite in the region.

- Service industries provide employment in the towns of the area.

- A rail link between Rockhampton and Longreach passes through Duaringa, Dingo, Bluff, Blackwater, Comet, Emerald, Anakie, Alpha and Jericho, with branch lines from Emerald to Clermont and Springsure.

- A network of main and subsidiary roads serves the area, although unsealed sections cause problems in wet weather. Many sealed roads have only a single lane of bitumen. The large number of heavy vehicles using these roads leads to problems with their maintenance.

Demography:

- Total population of the area was estimated at 66 604 on 30 June 1986, giving an average density of 40 persons per 100 square kilometres for Emerald Shire to 6 persons per 100 square kilometres for Jericho Shire.

- At the present time there are 61 government and 6 non-government schools in Central PCAP. Approximately 13 561 students are enrolled in the schools, with a further 90 students enrolled with the Primary Correspondence School and 39 students enrolled with the Secondary Correspondence School.

- At the present time full high school facilities exist at six centres — Biloela, Blackwater, Dysart, Emerald, Moranbah and Moura — and several schools have secondary departments.

- In addition to the above provisions, there are approximately 17 pre-school centres and four special education centres. Children from the area may also be assisted by the Isolated Children's Special Education Unit in Brisbane. Correspondence pupils in the Central Priority Country Area make use of services offered by Schools of the Air in Charleville and Mount Isa.

PCAP Projects:

- As well as the major projects detailed in the enclosed Project Profiles, each Region funds minor projects through a submission based program. Each Regional PCAP Committee has access to discretionary funds up to $60 000. Submissions are accepted from all government and non-government schools and eligible community groups within the prescribed boundaries of the Central Priority Country Area, (See Map at rear of this Profile).

- The criteria for approval of submissions is based on Commonwealth Schools Commission Guidelines and varies among regions. For information regarding the Criteria for approval of submissions in the Central Priority Country Area, contact the PCAP Regional Co-ordinator. Decisions regarding regional submissions are made by the Regional PCAP Committee, which meets regularly to discuss the operations of local initiatives.

- Details regarding regional initiatives approved, using discretionary funds, are listed in a publication titled **Priority Country Area Program, Queensland — Regional Initiatives.** This publication is available from either the State or Regional PCAP offices.

Administration:

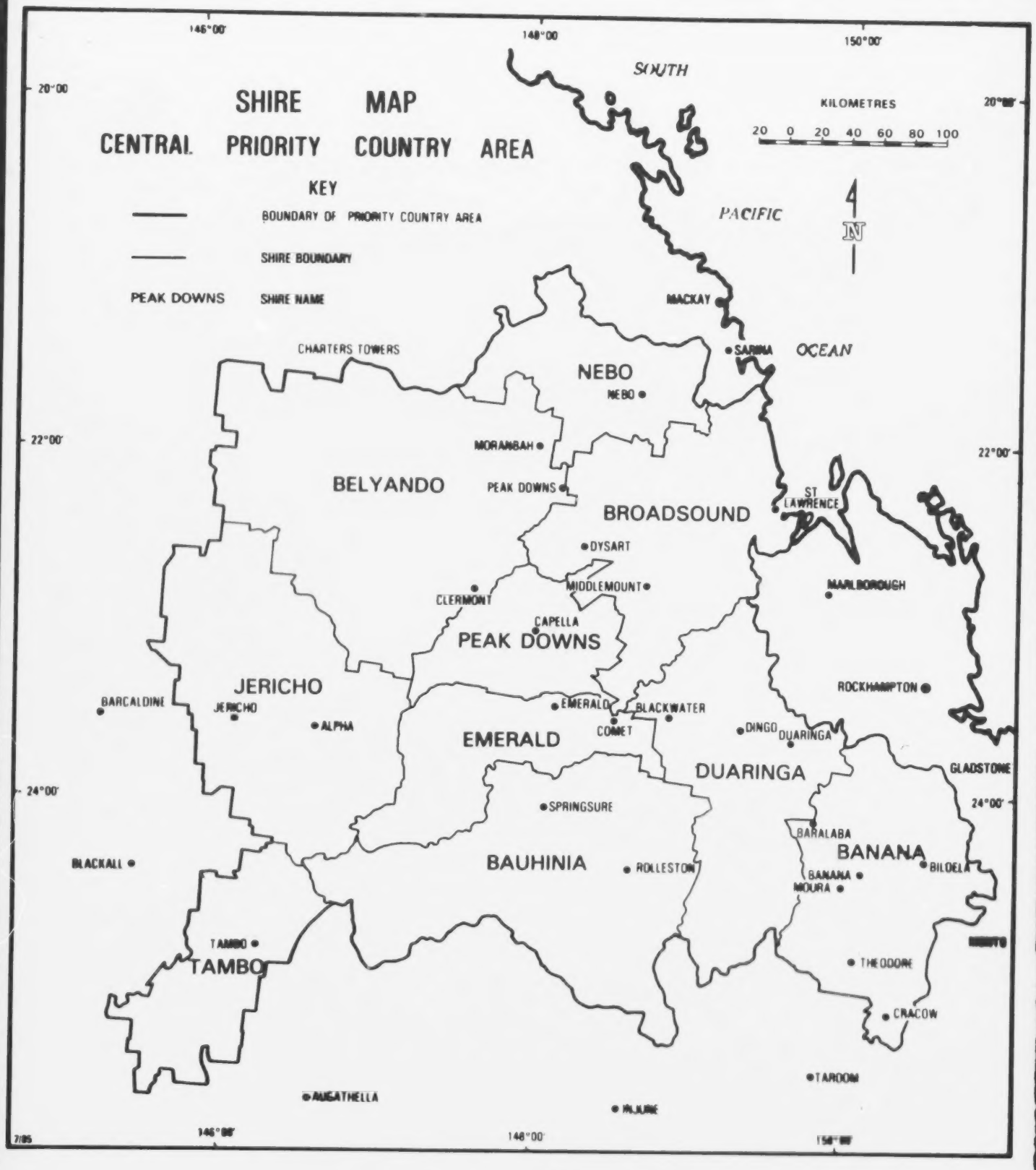
- The day to day administration of PCAP services in the Central Area is the responsibility of the Regional Co-ordinator based at the PCAP Regional Office in Rockhampton. All PCAP field staff are directly responsible to the Regional Co-ordinator, who in turn is responsible to the Chairman of the Regional Committee. Although the regional Program is responsible for many of its activities, overall responsibility is exercised by the State Management Committee through the State Office.

- The Chairman of the PCAP Central Regional Committee is also the Regional Director of Education. Since 1980 the Regional Committee has been responsible for monitoring PCAP services, disbursing regional allocations and formulating regional policy. It also informs the State Committee on major submissions relating to the Central Area.

- The Regional Committee, of some 20 members, comprises representation from a wide range of interests and organisations, including the State Education Department, Catholic Education, the Isolated Children's Parents Association, Primary Correspondence School, the Queensland Association of Independent Schools, the Queensland Teachers Union, the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Consultative Committee, the Queensland Council of Parents and Citizens Associations, School Health Services and Capricornia Institute of Advanced Education.

Information/ Publications:

- General information queries should be directed to either the Regional Co-ordinator or the State Co-ordinator.
- Reports relating to PCAP initiatives are also available from either the State or Regional Office. The PCAP Evaluation Series Reports were discontinued in 1984 The twelve reports in this series contain evaluations of all major PCAP activities up to that time.
- A new series, the PCAP project Report series was begun in 1983. This series contains reports on individual PCAP initiatives, evaluation of projects and details on particular programs developed for teachers and students in remote schools.
- Other publications include this series of Profiles on all current major projects and a further publication containing information on PCAP Regional Initiatives.



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

GENERAL PROFILE

PRIORITY COUNTRY AREA PROGRAM QUEENSLAND

Number 3 **August 1987**

Title: The North West Priority Country Area

Area Extent: 560 697km²

Local Authority Areas: Aramac, Barcaldine, Barcoo, Blackall, Boulia, Cloncurry, Diamantina, Flinders, Ilfracombe, Isisford, Longreach, McKinlay, Mount Isa, (excluding city of Mount Isa), Richmond and Winton.

Date Declared: December 1979

Contact Person: Regional Co-ordinator
North West PCAP
P.O. Box 492
LONGREACH Q. 4730
Phone: (074) 58 1830

DESCRIPTION

Background:

- The North West Priority Country Area was declared in 1979 and included the Shires of Barcoo, Boulia, Burke, Cloncurry, Diamantina, McKinlay and Mount Isa, (excluding the City of Mt. Isa). In 1982 the Area was expanded as a result of a State Management Committee review of declared areas and the following shires were included in the North West Area:- Aramac, Barcaldine, Blackall, Carpentaria, Croydon, Flinders, Ilfracombe, Isisford, Longreach, Mornington, Richmond and Winton. In 1984 the Shires of Boulia, Carpentaria, Croydon and Mornington were made part of the Northern Priority Country Area. (See Map at rear of Profile).

- Each year the North West Region produces an information booklet which outlines current guidelines and activities as well as general information for field staff and recipients of PCAP services.

- The North West Priority Country Area is within the Education Department's North Western Region, which is administered from the Regional Office in Longreach. The non-State schools in this PCAP region, all of which are Catholic, are in the area administered by the Diocesan Director of Education in Rockhampton.

Geography:

- The area occupies the far western part of the State and shares a common border with the Northern Territory and South Australia.

- Although the climate becomes increasingly dry and extreme as the southern margins are approached, the figures for Mount Isa would be representative of much of the area.

		January	July	Annual
Daily Average Temperatures	maximum	38.1°c	24.3°c	31.7°c
	minimum	24.7°c	9.9°c	17.9°c
Rainfall		86mm	6mm	429mm

- Climate is characterised by a large daily temperature range, unreliable rainfall and intense sunshine, particularly in summer.

- The principal type of land use is pastoral farming, although there are several mining centres in the area.

- The Region relies heavily on artesian bores for its water supplies.
- There are extensive mineral deposits in the Mount Isa/Cloncurry area. These include copper, silver, lead, zinc, uranium, iron phosphates, bismuth, manganese, gold, cobalt and oil shale.
- Service industries provide employment in the towns of the area.
- There is a rail link between Townsville and Mount Isa, passing through Julia Creek, Cloncurry and Duchess.
- A network of main and subsidiary roads serves the area, although the many unsealed sections still cause problems in wet weather and many sealed roads have only a single lane of bitumen.

Demography:

- Total population of the area (excluding the city of Mount Isa), was estimated at 27 600 on 30 June 1986, giving an average density of 49 persons per 100 square kilometres.
- Population densities were low in each of the local authority aeas. They ranged from a high of 59 persons per 100 square kilometres for Mt. Isa Shire in the north to 3 persons per 100 square kilometres for Diamantina Shire in the south.
- At the present time there are 33 government and 8 non-government schools in North West PCAP. Approximately 3 618 students are enrolled in the schools with a further 155 students enrolled with the Primary Correspondence School.
- Full high school facilities exist in Longreach and there are schools with secondary departments.

Problems:

- Problems related to the nature of the area and community include low socio-economic levels, restricted employment opportunities, limited population growth, social isolation and limited cultural, sporting and medical facilities. Difficulties also exist in providing appropriate educational facilities for Aboriginal pupils.
- Difficulties facing schools include relatively low student retention rates, high teacher turnover, limited curriculum choices, young and inexperienced teachers, lower attainment levels and limited vocational aspirations of students.

PCAP Projects

- As well as the major projects detailed in the enclosed Project Profiles, each Region funds minor projects through a submission based program. Each Regional PCAP Committee has access to discretionary funds up to $60 000. Submissions are accepted from all government and non-government schools and eligible community groups within the prescribed boundaries of the North West Priority Country Area.
- The criteria for approval of submissions is based on Commonwealth Schools Commission Guidelines and varies among regions. For information regarding the Criteria for approval of submissions in the North West Priority Country Area, contact the PCAP Regional Co-ordinator. Decisions regarding regional submissions are made by the Regional PCAP Committee, which meets regularly to discuss the operations of local initiatives.
- Details regarding regional initiatives approved, using discretionary funds, are listed in a publication titled **Priority Country Area Program, Queensland — Regional Initiatives.** This publication is available from either the State or Regional PCAP offices.

Administration:

- The day to day administration of PCAP services in the North West Area is the responsibility of the Regional Co-ordinator based at the PCAP Regional Office in Longreach. All PCAP field staff are directly responsible to the Chairman of the Regional Committee. Although the regional Program is responsible for many of its activities, overall responsibility is exercised by the State Management Committee through the State Office.

- The Chairman of the PCAP North West Regional Committee is also the Regional Director of Education. Since 1980 the Regional committee has been responsible for monitoring PCAP services, disbursing regional allocations and formulating regional policy. It also informs the State Committee on major submissions relating to the Central Area.

- The Regional Committee, of some 20 members, comprises representation from a wide range of interests and organisations, including the State Education Department, Catholic Education, the Isolated Children's Parents Association, Primary Correspondence School and School of the Air, The Queensland Association of Independent Schools, the Queensland Teachers Union, the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Consultative Committee, the Queensland Council of Parents and Citizens Associations.

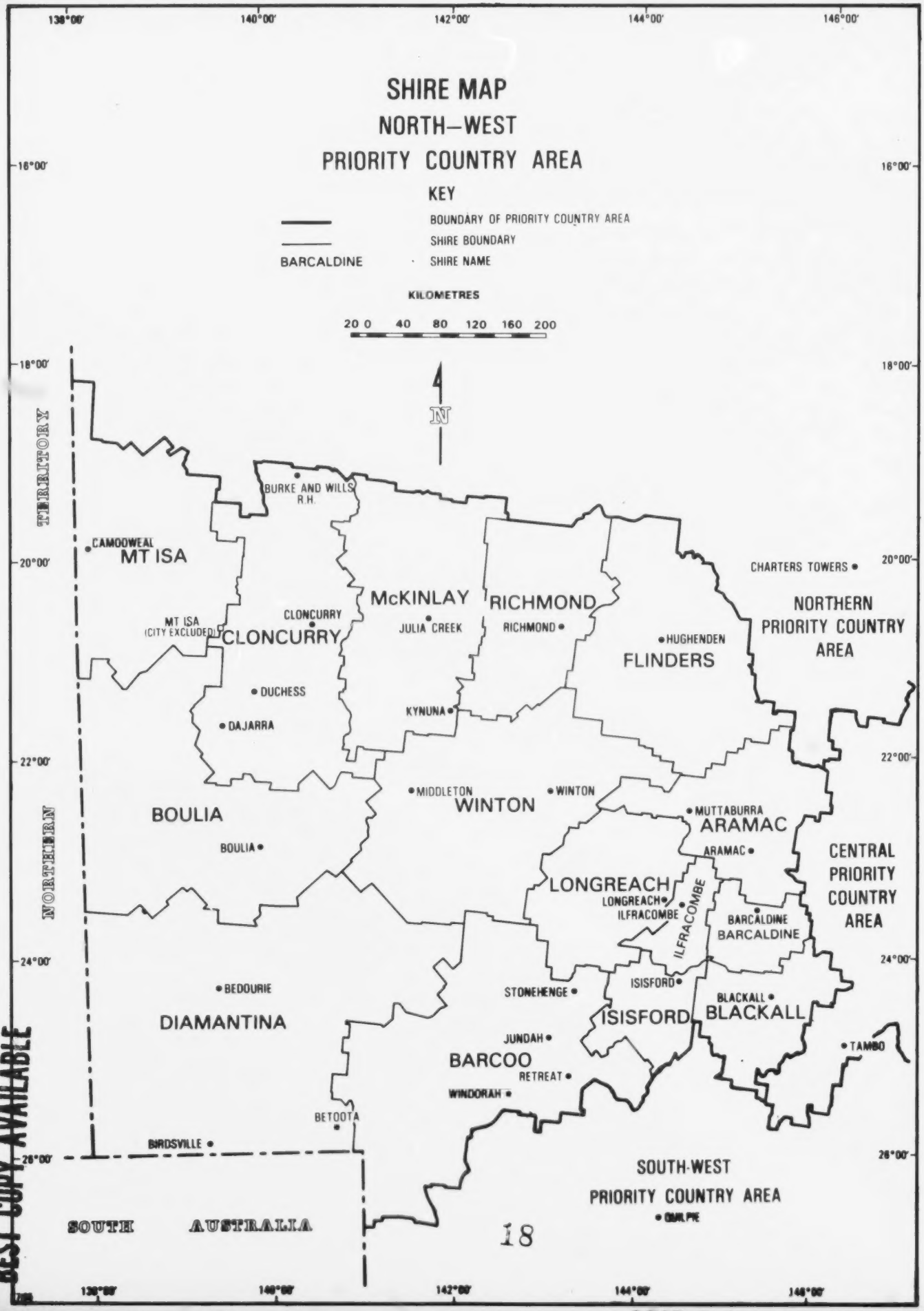
Information/ Publications:

- General information queries should be directed to either the Regional Co-ordinator or the State Co-ordinator.

- Reports relating to PCAP initiatives are also available from either the State or Regional Office. The PCAP Evaluation Series Reports were discontinued in 1984. The twelve reports in this series contain evaluations of all major PCAP activities up to that time.

- A new series, the PCAP project Report series was begun in 1983. This contains reports on individual PCAP initiatives, evaluation of projects and details on particular programs developed for teachers and students in remote schools.

- Other publications include this series of Profiles on all current major projects and a further publication containing information on PCAP Regional Initiatives.



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

GENERAL PROFILE

PRIORITY COUNTRY AREA PROGRAM QUEENSLAND

Number 4 **August 1987**

Title: The South West Priority Country Area

Area Extent: 378 092 km²

Local Authority Areas: Balonne, Bendemere, Booringa, Bulloo, Bungil, Goondiwindi, Inglewood, Murweh, Murilla, Paroo, Quilpie, Roma, Tara, Taroom, Waggamba, Waroo.

Date Declared: March 1977

Contact Person:
Regional Co-ordinator
South West PCAP
P.O. Box 47
CHARLEVILLE Q 4730
Phone: (074) 54 1827

DESCRIPTION

Background:

- The South West Priority Country Area was declared in 1977 and included the Shires of Balonne, Booringa, Bulloo, Bungil, Murweh, Paroo, Quilpie, Roma and Warroo. In 1982 the Area was expanded as a result of a State Management Committee review of declared areas and the following Shires were included:— Bendemere, Goondiwindi, Inglewood, Murilla, Tara, Taroom and Waggamba. (See Map at rear of Profile).
- The South West Priority Country Area was the first declared area in the State and many of the projects piloted in this area have expanded to other Priority Country Areas.
- Each year the South West region produces an information booklet which outlines current guidelines and activities as well as providing general information for recipients of PCAP services.
- Although the south-eastern part of the area lies in the Education Department's Darling Downs Region, the greater part lies within the South West Region, which is administered from the Regional Office in Roma. The non-State schools in this PCAP region, all of which are Catholic, are in the area administered by the Diocesan Director of Education in Toowoomba.

Geography

- The area occupies the south western part of the State (see Map), extending approximately 1000 km from east to west and 400 km from north to south.
- The area may be regarded as a broad transition zone between the fertile farming lands of the Darling Downs, through mulga and open grasslands, to the desert margins of Central Australia.
- Although the climate becomes increasingly dry and extreme as the western margins are approached, the figures for Charleville would be representative of much of the area.

	January	July	Annual
Daily Average Temperatures maximum	34.6°c	19.4°c	28.0°c
minimum	21.2°c	6.2°c	13.9°c
Rainfall	67mm	21mm	515mm

- Climate is characterised by a large daily temperature range, unreliable rainfall and intense sunshine, particularly in summer.

- The principal type of land use is pastoral farming, although towards the eastern margins, particularly around St. George, crop farming is increasingly important. The region relies heavily on artesian bores for water supplies.

- Oil and gas are found in the Roma/Surat and Moonie areas. Service industries provide employment in the towns of the area.

- A network of main and subsidiary roads serves the areas. Service industries provide employment in the towns of the area.

- A network of main and subsidiary roads serves the area, although unsealed sections still cause problems in wet weather. Many sealed roads have only a single lane of bitumen.

Demography

- Total population of the area was estimated at 48 420 on 30 June 1986, giving an average density of 13 persons per 100 square kilometres.

- Population densities decreased from 61 persons per 100 square kilometres for Bungil Shire, (including Roma), to 2 persons per 100 square kilometres for Bulloo Shire.

- At the present time there are 60 government and 11 non-government schools in South West PCAP.

- Approximately 8 451 students are enrolled in the schools, with a further 90 students enrolled with the Primary Correspondence School and 39 students enrolled with the Secondary Correspondence School.

- At the present time, full high school facilities exist at five centres - Roma, Charleville, St. George, Goondiwindi and Miles — and there are several schools with secondary departments.

- In addition to the above provisions, there are approximately 14 pre-schools and four special education centres. Further, pupils may be assisted by the Isolated Children's Special Education Unit in Brisbane. There is a school of the Air at Charleville.

Problems:

- Problems related to the nature of the area and community include low socio-economic levels, restricted employment opportunities, declining population growth, social isolation and limited cultural, sporting and medical facilities.

- Difficulties facing schools include relatively low student retention rates, high teacher turnover, limited curriculum choices, young and inexperienced teachers, lower attainment levels and limited vocational aspirations of students.

PCAP Projects

- As well as the major projects detailed in the enclosed Project Profiles, each Region funds minor projects through a submission based program. Each Regional PCAP Committee has access to discretionary funds up to $60 000. Submissions are accepted from all government and non-government schools and eligible community groups within the prescribed boundaries of the South West Priority Country Area.

- The criteria for approval of submissions is based on Commonwealth Schools Commission Guidelines and varies among regions. For information regarding the Criteria for approval of submissions in the South West Priority Country Area, contact the PCAP Regional Co-ordinator. Decisions regarding regional submissions are made by the Regional PCAP Committee, which meets regularly to discuss the operations of local initiatives.

- Details regarding regional initiatives approved, using discretionary funds, are listed in a publication titled **Priority Country Area Program, Queensland — Regional Initiatives.** This publication is available from either the State or Regional PCAP offices.

Administration:

- The day to day administration of PCAP services in the South West Area is the responsibility of the Regional Co-ordinator based at the PCAP Regional Office in Charleville. All PCAP field staff are directly responsible to the Regional Co-ordinator, who in turn is responsible for many of its activities, overall responsibility is exercised by the State Management Committee through the State Office.

- The Chairman of the PCAP South West Regional Committee is also the Regional Director of Education. Since 1980 the Regional Committee has been responsible for monitoring PCAP services, disbursing regional allocations and formulating regional policy. It also informs the State Committee on major submisssions relating to the South West Area.

- The Regional Committee, of some 27 members, comprises representation from a wide range of interests and organisations, including the State Education Department, Catholic Education, the Isolated Children's Parents Association, School of the Air, the Queensland Association of Independent Schools, the Queensland Teachers Union, the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Consultative Committee, the Queensland Council of Parents and Citizens Associations.

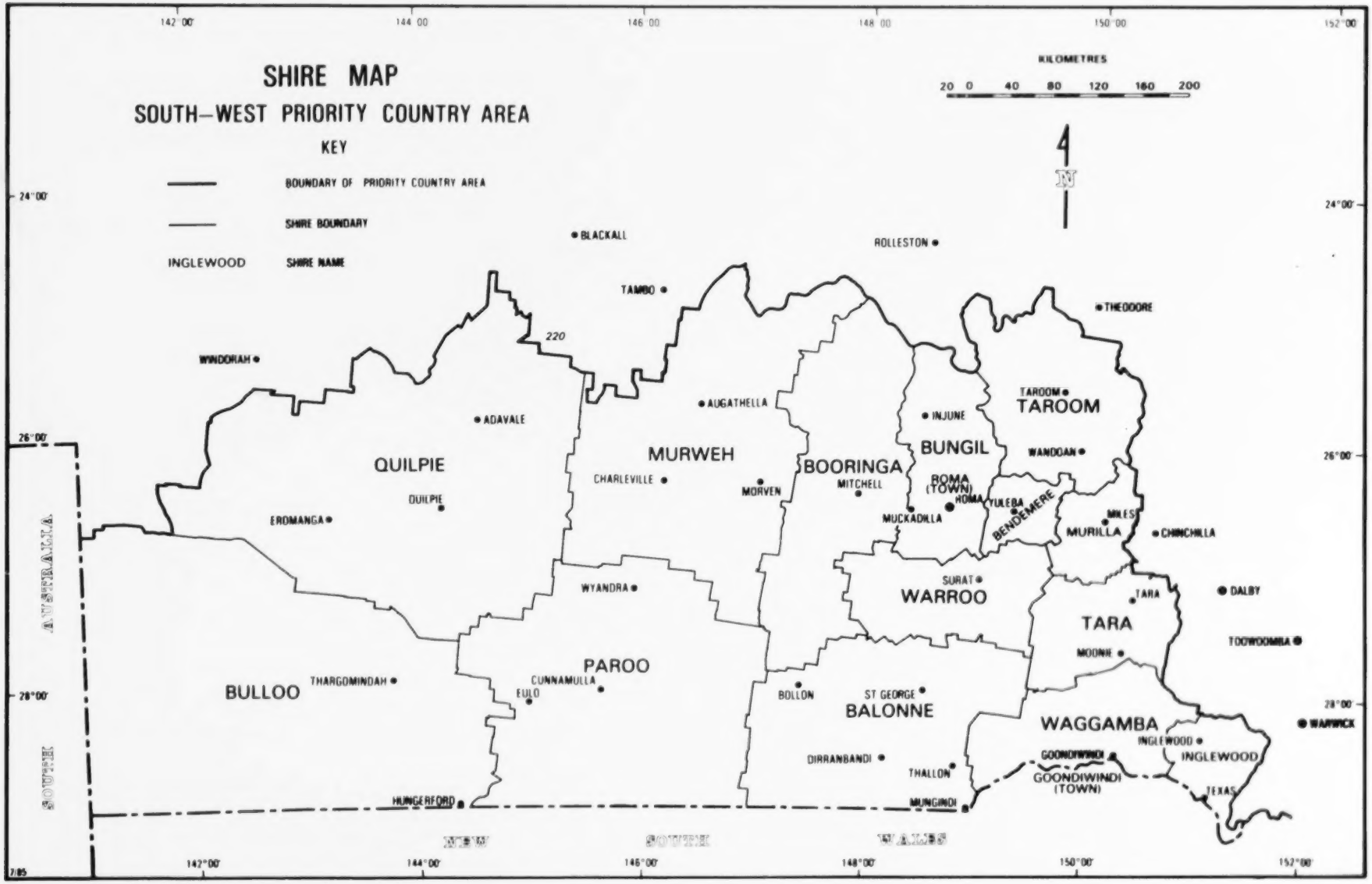
Information/ Publications:

- General information queries should be directed to either the Regional Co-ordinator or the State Co-ordinator.

- Reports relating to PCAP initiatives are also available from either the State or Regional Office. The PCAP Evaluation Series Reports were discontinued in 1984. The twelve reports in this series contain evaluations of all major PCAP activities up to that time.

- A new series, the PCAP project Report series was begun in 1983. This series contains reports on individual PCAP initiatives, evaluation of projects and details on particular programs developed for teachers and students in remote schools.

- Other publications include this series of Profiles on all current major projects and a further publication containing information on PCAP Regional Initiatives.



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

GENERAL PROFILE

PRIORITY COUNTRY AREA PROGRAM QUEENSLAND

Number 5 **August 1987**

Title:	The Northern Priority Country Area
Area Extent:	456 185 km²
Local Authority Areas:	Aurukun, Bowen, Burke, Carpentaria, Cook, Croydon, Dalrymple, Etheridge, Herberton, Mareeba, Mornington, Torres.
Date Declared:	August 1982
Contact Person:	Regional Co-ordinator Northern PCAP P.O. Box 5976 CAIRNS MAIl CENTRE Q 4871 Phone: (070) 51 9267

DESCRIPTION

Background:

- The Northern Priority Country Area was the last Area to be declared. It was declared in 1982 at the time of the State Management Committee review of declared areas and it includes the Shires of Aurukun, Bowen, Cook, Dalrymple, Etheridge, Herberton, Mareeba, Mornington and Torres. In 1984 the Shires of Burke, Carpentaria, Croydon and Mornington were taken from the North West Area and included in the Northern Priority Country Area. (See Map at rear of Profile).
- The geographical nature of the Northern Priority Country Area, Provides a particular challenge to the task of delivering educational services in isolated areas. The location of many schools and properties is characterised by extremely difficult terrain and inaccessability to road transport. In particular, the Cape and Gulf areas together with the Torres Strait Islands, present a range of problems which require creative solutions.
- Each year the Northern Region produces an information booklet which outlines current guidelines and activities as well as general information for recipients of PCAP services.
- This region includes the Aboriginal and Islander communities of the Torres Strait Islands, Georgetown, Aurukun, Bloomfield River, Hopevale, Laura, Coen, Lockhart River, Weipa and Bamaga.
- The Northern Priority Country Area encompasses the whole of the Department of Education's Peninsula Region with a Regional Office in Cairns and part of the Department's Northern Region with a Regional Office in Townsville. Catholic Schools in the Area are administered from the Catholic Education Office in Cairns.

Geography

- The area occupies the Northern part of the State and extends from Bowen in the South to the Torres Strait Islands.
- The area may be regarded as a broad transition zone from the eastern ranges and rainforest areas through to the open forests of the northern inland and the Gulf area where the coastal plains merge with the western plains.
- Rainforests occur in discontinuous patches along the coast in regions of high rainfall. They reach from the southern border of the Area to the top of Cape York. The greatest concentrations of rain forests are in the Cairns district spreading north to Cooktown, in the area north of Coen, and in the Cape York area.

- The rest of the Northern region could be best described as open forest. The most extensive area of open forest is in the vast tropical monsoonal regions of the inland north, although considerable areas of open forest also exist in the sub-coastal region west of Townsville.

- North Queensland has highly reliable summer rains, particularly in the east coast and Peninsula areas. Winter rains are very unreliable except for the regular late Autumn falls of the Cooktown-Ingham, Proserpine-Mackay and Cape York areas.

- Climate variations make it impossible to select one town as being representative of the area. Annual rainfalls as high as 4000mm are recorded along the north-east coast, especially in the sugar-cane areas, while many areas of the northern inland record rainfalls of about 800-1000mm. Cairns records an average annual rainfall of 2000mm while Coen to the north records 1100mm. Temperatures also vary widely in the region with the averages for Cairns being:

Daily Average Temperatures

	January	July
maximum	32°c	25°c
minimum	24°c	17°c

- Further inland the summer maximum increases and the winter minimum decreases.

- The paramount asset of the region is its natural grasses which support large herds of cattle.

- Mining is also a significant activity in the area, with bauxite at Weipa and tin at Mareeba and Herberton. High grade silica sands are mined at Cape York and there is additional mining activity in the Chillagoe and Georgetown districts.

Demography

- The total population of the Northern PCAP region was estimated at 58 049 on 30 June 1986, giving an average density of 13 persons per 100 square kilometres.

- At the present time there are 68 government and 9 non-government schools in Northern PCAP. Approximstely 10 981 students are enrolled in the schools with a further 185 students enrolled with the Primary Correspondence School and 42 students enrolled with the Secondary Correspondence School.

- Full high school facilities in the region are at Bowen, Mareeba, Bamaga, Cooktown and Thursday Island and there are several schools with secondary departments.

- In addition to the above provisions there are several pre-school centres and a number of Special Education Units. Pupils from the area may also be assisted by the Isolated Children's Special Education Unit in Brisbane. Correspondence pupils in the region are serviced by the Cairns School of the Air.

Problems:

- Problems related to the nature of the area and community include low socio-economic levels, restricted employment opportunities, Limited population growth, social isolation and limited cultural, sporting and medical facilities. Difficulties also exist in providing appropriate educational facilities for Aboriginal pupils.

- Difficulties facing schools include relatively low student retention rates, high teacher turnover, limited curriculum choices, young and inexperienced teachers, lower attainment levels and limited vocational aspirations of students.

PCAP Projects:

- As well as the major projects detailed in the enclosd Project Profiles, each Region funds minor projects through a submission based program. Each Regional PCAP Committee has access to discretionary funds up to $60 000. Submissions are accepted from all government and non-government schools and eligible community groups within the prescribed boundaries of the Northern Priority Country Area.

- The criteria for approval of submissions is based on Commonwealth Schools Commission Guidelines and varies among regions. For information regarding the Criteria for approval of submissions in the Northern Priority Country Area, contact the PCAP Regional Co-ordinator. Decisions regarding regional submissions are made by the Regional PCAP Committee, which meets regularly to discuss the operations of local initiatives.

- Details regarding regional initiatives approved using discretionary funds, are listed in a publication titled **Priority Country Area Program, Queensland - Regional Initiatives.** This publication is available from either the State or regional PCAP offices.

Administration:

- The day to day administration of PCAP services in the Northern Area is the responsibility of the Regional Co-ordinator based at the PCAP Regional Office in Cairns. All PCAP field staff are directly responsible to the Chairman of the Regional Committee. Although the regional Program is responsible for many of its activities, overall responsibility is exercised by the State Management Committee through the State Office.

- The Regional Committee is responsible for monitoring PCAP services, disbursing regional allocations and formulating regional policy. It also advises the State Management Committee on major submissions from the region.

- The Regional Committee, of some 16 members, comprises representation from a wide range of interests and organisations, including the State Education Department, Catholic Education, the Isolated Children's Parents Association, Cairns School of the Air, the Queensland Teachers Union, the Queensland Association of Independent Schools, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Consultative Committee and the Queensland Council of Parents and Citizens Association.

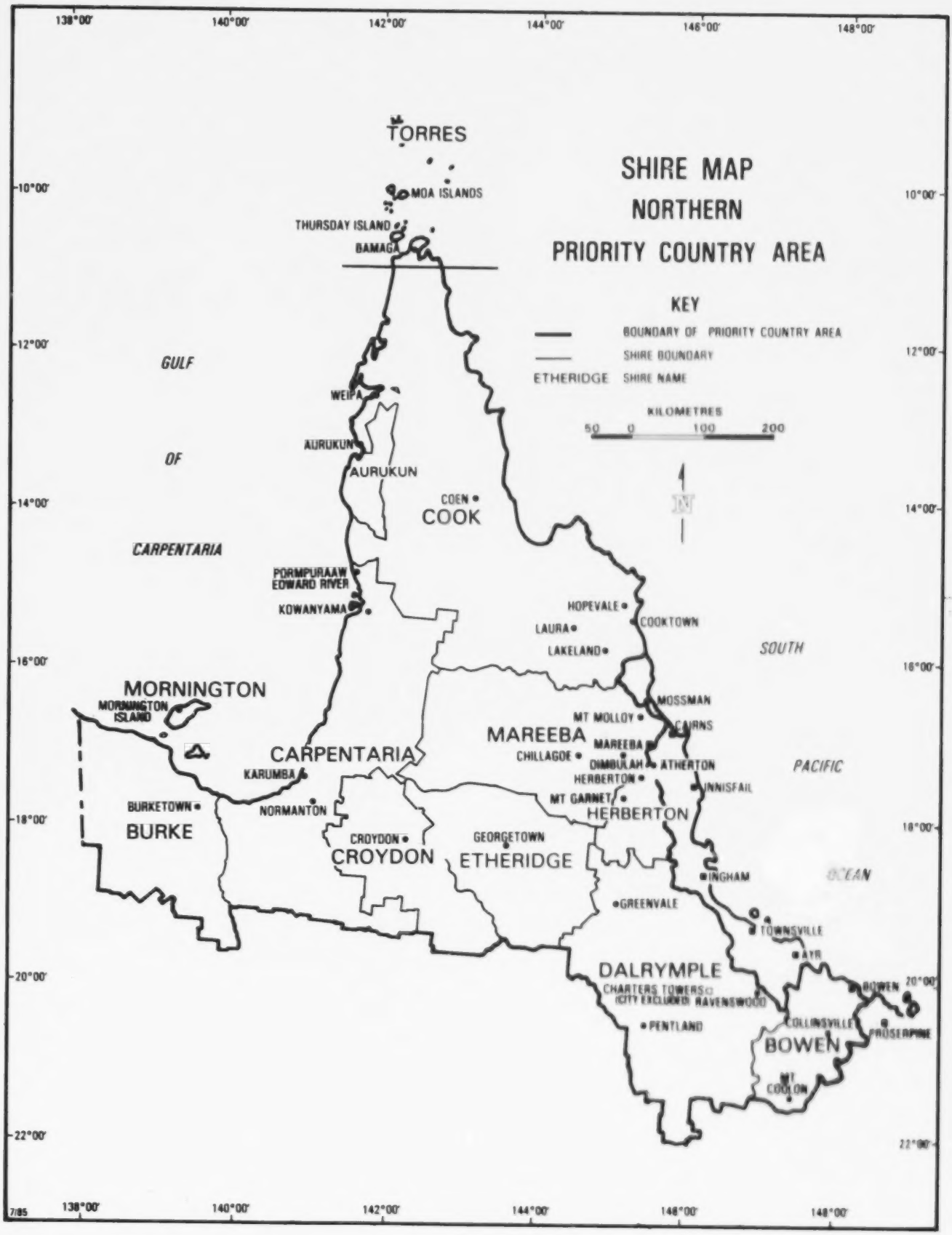
Information/ Publications:

- General information queries should be directed to either the Regional Co-ordinator or the State Co-ordinator.

- Reports relating to PCAP initiatives are also available from either the State or Regional Office. The PCAP Evaluation Series Reports were discontinued in 1984. The twelve reports on this series contain evaluations of all major PCAP activities up to that time.

- A new series, the PCAP project Report series was begun in 1983. This series contains reports on individual PCAP initiatives, evaluation of projects and details on particular programs developed for teachers and students in remote schools.

- Other publications include this series of profiles on all current major projects and a further publication containing information on PCAP Regional Initiatives.



BEST COPY AVAILABLE